

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04258 021114Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /126 W

----- 106817

R 020851Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4626

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 4258

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, KS, KN

SUBJECT: PRESS CONTINUES COVERAGES OF KNP PATROL BOAT INCIDENT

REF: SEOUL 4189

1. PUBLIC REACTION TO JUNE 28 KNP PATROL BOAT INCIDENT  
CONTINUED JULY 1 AND 2 WITH PRESS GIVING HEADLINE FRONT-PAGE  
COVERAGE TO REMARKS OF DEFENSE MINISTER SUH BEFORE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

2. RESPONDING TO COMMITTEE CRITICISM FOR FAILURE TO PROTECT  
BOAT SUH REPORTEDLY SAID THAT MND IS PREPARING PLANS TO  
PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS. HE NOTED THAT IT IS ROK POLICY TO  
"TAKE RESOLUTE COUNTER-MEASURES" TO NORTH KOREAN PROVOCATIONS,  
BUT THAT BAD WEATHER HAD HINDERED EFFORTS TO RESCUE BOATM  
SUH ALSO BLAMED BAD WEATHER FOR EARLIER FALSE REPORTS THAT  
BOAT WAS NINE MILES SOUTH OF PATROL LINE AT FIRST MEETING  
WITH NORTHERN BOATS. SUH CLARIFIED POINT BY SAYING ENGAGEMENT  
TOOK PLACE ONE MILE SOUTH OF LINE, BOAT WAS CARRIED BY CURRENT  
TO POINT 6.5 MILES NORTH OF LINE WHERE IT SANK.

3. TESTIMONY JULY 2 BY HOME MINISTER HONG SONG-CHOL AT HOME  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WAS IN GENERAL ACCORD WITH THAT GIVEN  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SEOUL 04258 021114Z

EARLIER BY SUH.

4. OPPOSITION NDP HAS TAKEN LEAD IN CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT FOR INCIDENT. THE HOME MINISTER WAS GRILLED ON ISSUES OF FAULTY MND-POLICE COORDINATION AND OBSOLETE POLICE EQUIPMENT. NDP ASSEMBLYMAN SONG WON-YONG POINTED OUT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN SUH'S ASSERTION THAT THERE WERE FISHING BOATS IN AREA AND OFFICE OF FISHERIES REPORTED STATEMENT THAT THERE WERE NONE. NDP ASSEMBLYMAN CHONG HAE-YONG REPORTEDLY WORKED IN CHARGE THAT DELAY IN MODERNIZATION OF ROK FORCES IS DUE TO INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION (YUSIN AND EMERGENCY MEASURES). THE NDP HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT HOLDING DEFENSE AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINKING.

5. JULY 2 PRESS ALSO CARRIED FRONT-PAGE STORIES ON US SENIOR MAC REPRESENTATIVE'S "REPUDIATION" OF NORTH KOREAN ACTION AND DEMAND FOR RETURN OF SURVIVORS. ARTICLES HIGHLIGHT MAC REPRESENTATIVE'S STATEMENT THAT BOAT WAS SUBJECT TO UNPROVOKED ATTACK IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND HIS RHETORICAL QUESTION: HOW COULD SUCH A POORLY ARMED, SLOW, AND UNGAINLY CRAFT AS THE KNMP CRAFT BE CONSIDERED A THREAT.

HABIB

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NAVAL SHIPS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS, POLICE FORCES, SHIP ACCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SEOUL04258  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740175-0327  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740780/aaaacqvx.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** SEOUL 4189  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS CONTINUES COVERAGES OF KNP PATROL BOAT INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PINS, KS, KN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005